

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Case No. PAC-E-13-04, Order No. 32761

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PUC opens case to consider options to possible rate case

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has agreed to open a case to allow interested parties to engage in settlement discussions that may negate the need for a rate case filing from Rocky Mountain Power or, if a case is filed, significantly narrow the issues.

Rocky Mountain Power serves about 70,000 customers in eastern Idaho. On March 1, the utility filed an application requesting the settlement negotiations along with a 60-day Notice of Intent to file a rate case. Commission rules require larger utilities to file a Notice of Intent at least 60 days before filing. In Rocky Mountain's case, the notice means the utility cannot file before May 31, 2013, and that rates resulting from that filing would not become effective until Jan. 1, 2014. Rocky Mountain indicated that a rate case filing may be avoided, pending the outcome of settlement negotiations.

The commission set an intervention deadline of **March 26** for parties who want to participate in the proposed settlement discussions. The Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association, Monsanto Company and PacifiCorp Idaho Industrial Customers have already been granted intervention because of their past participation in Rocky Mountain Power rate cases.

Parties intervene in rate cases for the purpose of presenting evidence and testimony and cross-examining witnesses. There are also opportunities for individual customers to comment or participate in public hearings if a rate case is eventually filed.

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